

WHAT IS CLAIMED AS NEW AND IS DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY
LETTERS PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. A network control system comprising:
- a computer network;
 - 5 an image forming apparatus connected to said computer network and configured to record an image on a recording paper, comprising,
 - an operational control device configured to produce a control instruction for adjusting features of
 - 10 the image recorded on the recording paper,
 - a memory configured to hold display information representative of an image of said operational control device, and
 - a controller configured to provide said display
 - 15 information in response to a request, and configured to operate said image forming apparatus based on said control instruction from said operational control device or other devices connected to said network;
 - a computer connected to said network, comprising,
 - 20 a computer display, and
 - an input device configured to input data into the computer, said computer configured to select said

image forming apparatus for recording the image which is provided by said computer,

a request mechanism configured to request said display information from at least one of a server

5 connected to said computer network and said image forming apparatus, and configured to display said display information on said computer display, and

a feature select mechanism that provides the control instruction to said image forming device
10 corresponding to features of said display information selected at said computer.

2. A network control system according to claim 1, wherein said request mechanism is configured to display on said display a list identifying said image forming
15 apparatus and other image forming apparatuses, said request mechanism comprising an apparatus display state mechanism configured to display on said computer display an operational state of said image forming apparatus and said other image forming apparatus at a same time.

20 3. A network control system according to claim 2, wherein said apparatus display state mechanism is configured to display at least one of a state of failure and a state of occupation corresponding to an operational status of said image forming apparatus.

4. A network control system according to claim 1,
wherein said request mechanism is configured to display
said display information on said computer display as a
graphical image that corresponds in appearance with a
5 layout of said operational control device.

5. A network control system according to claim 1,
wherein said request mechanism is configured to display
as a list input items of said display information.

6. A network control system according to claim 4,
10 wherein said request mechanism is configured to display
an installation location of said image forming apparatus
as part of said display information.

7. A network control system according to claim 5,
wherein said request mechanism is configured to display
15 an installation location of said image forming apparatus
as part of said display information.

8. A network control system comprising:
a computer network;
an image forming apparatus connected to said network
20 comprising,

recording means for recording an image on a
recording paper, and

operating means for receiving and responding to
a print instruction regarding an image forming condition

of the image to be recorded by said recording means, said operating means having a displayed image;

a computer connected to said network, comprising,
a display that displays said displayed image,

5 and

inputting means for inputting said image forming condition in the computer on the basis of said displayed image; and

executing means for holding attributes including the
10 displayed image of operating means of said image forming apparatus, for retrieving said image forming condition from said inputting means of said computer, for displaying on said display an indication of said image forming condition, and for sending the print instruction
15 including said image forming condition to the image forming apparatus.

9. A network control system according to claim 8, wherein:

said display being configured to display respective
20 indications of all of image forming apparatuses connected to the network capable of executing said image forming condition;

said inputting means for receiving an input signal selecting one of said respective image forming apparatuses identified on said display; and

5 said executing means for holding attributes of
respective of said all of image forming apparatuses connected to the network, and for sending said print instruction to the one of said respective image forming apparatuses selected by said inputting means.

10 10. A network control system according to claim 8,
wherein:

15 said executing means is for determining whether if image forming apparatus is capable of executing each aspect of said image forming condition and for identifying at least one image forming apparatus capable of executing a portion of said image forming condition; and

20 said display being configured to display an indication of said at least one of said respective image forming apparatuses capable of executing a portion of said image forming condition.

11. A network control system according to claim 8, wherein:

 said executing means is for determining whether no image forming apparatus is capable of executing each

aspect of said image forming condition and for
identifying at least one of said respective image forming
apparatuses capable of executing a largest portion of
said image forming condition previously indicated as
5 being a high priority image forming condition feature;
and

said display being configured to display an
indication of said at least one of said respective image
forming apparatuses capable of executing a largest
10 portion of said image forming condition previously
indicated as being the high priority image forming
condition feature.

12. A network control system according to claim 8,
wherein:

15 said executing means is for determining whether no
image forming apparatus is capable of executing each
aspect of said image forming condition;

said display is configured to display as said
display image an image of said operating means; and

20 said inputting means for modifying said image
forming condition.

13. A network control system according to claim 9,
wherein:

said executing means is for determining whether no image forming apparatus is capable of executing each aspect of said image forming condition;

said display being configured to display as said
5 display image an image of said operating means; and

said inputting means for modifying said image forming condition.

14. A network control system according to claim 10, wherein:

10 said executing means is for determining whether no image forming apparatus is capable of executing each aspect of said image forming condition;

said display being configured to display as said display image an image of said operating means; and

15 said inputting means for modifying said image forming condition.

15. A network control system according to claim 10, wherein said display being configured to display a model name and a satisfactory/unsatisfactory state of
20 said image forming condition.

16. A method for controlling a network having a computer and an image forming apparatus connected thereto, comprising the steps of:

selecting from a display a suitable image forming apparatus;

determining if a plurality of suitable image forming apparatuses are present;

5 displaying a list of input items of suitable image forming apparatuses if said plurality of image forming apparatuses are determined to be present and selecting one of the suitable image forming apparatuses as a finally selected image forming apparatus;

10 displaying an operation panel image of the finally selected image forming apparatus;

selecting an image forming condition at said computer based on said operation panel image; and

15 recording at said image forming apparatus an image on recording paper based on said image forming condition selected at said computer.

17. A method for controlling a network having a computer and a plurality of image forming apparatuses connected thereto, comprising the steps of:

20 displaying at said computer a plurality of input items corresponding to an image forming condition, said input items including a priority identifier;

selecting at said computer a portion of said plurality of input items;

determining whether at least one of said plurality
of image forming apparatuses satisfies all of the
plurality of input items and if so, selecting a final
image forming apparatus that satisfies all of the
5 plurality of input items;

displaying an indication of another plurality of
said image forming apparatuses having an attribute
corresponding to a priority identifier, if none of said
plurality of image forming apparatuses satisfy all of the
10 plurality of input items;

selecting as the final image forming apparatus one
of said another plurality of said image forming
apparatuses having an attribute corresponding to the
priority identifier when none of said plurality of image
15 forming apparatuses satisfy all of the plurality of input
items; and

recording at said final image forming apparatus an
image on recording paper based on said image forming
condition.

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